

1st Quarter 2018 (Jan 1 – Mar 31)

Issues and Programs for WJTC

Issues addressed:

Public Health
Public Safety
Consumer Awareness
Education
Crime

Regularly Scheduled Programs:

Local 15 News – Daily local news programs

WPMT's daily newscasts give considerable time to issues that concern the communities of the South Alabama and Western Florida areas.

9pm –9:30

WJTC News at 9:00

M-F

Public Health

1/26/18 NBC 15 News at 9PM (WJTC) trt: 0:15

Fatal Flu

THE MOBILE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT REPORTS A POSSIBLE FLU RELATED DEATH. BECAUSE OF PRIVACY LAWS NO INFORMATION ON THE PATIENT HAS BEEN RELEASED. NBC 15 news IS WORKING TO LEARN MORE INFORMATION -- WE'LL BRING IT TO YOU AS WE RECEIVE IT.

2/7/18 NBC 15 News at 9PM (WJTC) trt: 2:20

Daphne Sewage

OUTRAGE OVER SEWAGE SPILLS HAS PROMPTED DAPHNE UTILITIES BOARD MEMBERS TO CONSIDER HIRING AN OUTSIDE INVESTIGATOR - ACCORDING TO MOBILE BAYKEEPER. THIS LATEST DEVELOPMENT COMES in the middle of an ONGOING LAWSUIT FILED BY THE ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT - ALLEGING NUMEROUS VIOLATIONS BY DAPHNE UTILITIES. Mobile Baykeeper says Daphne Utilities board members are expected to vote on whether to bring in an outside source to investigate what's going on behind closed doors at Daphne Utilities. The spills keep coming...

Raw sewage pouring into the waterways around Daphne that many folks live near or spend time in - has almost become routine. Mobile Baykeeper says a public meeting - the second in about a week - will be held on the ongoing issue tomorrow at Daphne City Hall... In which Daphne Utilities board members are expected to vote whether to hire an external investigator to try and get to the bottom of a stinky situation.

CASI CALLAWAY, MOBILE BAYKEEPER

"Our concerns are with the leadership and the leadership not encouraging their staff members to follow the rules. So we are very hopeful that they do hire an external reviewer to make sure Daphne citizens are getting what they pay for,"

The latest spill happened not even 3 weeks ago... In January - the Alabama Health Department issued a notice of 2,500 gallons of sewage discharged into D'Olive Creek due to a grease blockage in Daphne Utilities' lines. But that was a drop in the bucket compared to spills in February and August of last year - when a combined amount of nearly 900 thousand gallons dumped into the waters around Daphne and Mobile Bay...reportedly due to pump station failures.

CALLAWAY

"The city of Daphne has outgrown the sewage treatment facility but they haven't invested in upgrades. They're violating their permit because they have too much stuff running through a system that can't handle it and can't maintain it,"

In December of last year - Mobile Baykeeper filed to intervene in a lawsuit filed by the Alabama Department of Environmental Management against Daphne Utilities. The suit alleges Daphne utilities falsely or under reported sewer spill data - and allowed raw - or partially treated sewage to spill into waterways.

CALLAWAY

"An external, outside - hopefully non-biased source, to review the system is gonna be an excellent way to really find the problems that we already see,">

Consumer Awareness

1/30/18 NBC 15 News at 9:00PM (WJTC) trt: 1:00

Daycare Regulation

A YOUNG BOY, LEFT TO DIE IN THE BRUTAL HEAT OF A DAYCARE VAN--AND TONIGHT, alabama lawmakers ARE LOOKING TO ADD MORE OVERSIGHT AT FAITH-BASED DAYCARE CENTERS. HOUSE BILL 76 WOULD REQUIRE DAYCARE CENTERS THAT OPERATE FOR PROFIT... OR ACCEPT STATE OR FEDERAL FUNDS.. TO BE LICENSED. RELIGIOUS FACILITIES THAT REMAIN EXEMPT-- WOULD HAVE TO SUBMIT TO ANNUAL INSPECTIONS, AND **NOTIFY PARENTS THEY ARE NOT LICENSED. ROBIN MEARS REPRESENTS MORE THAN 500 LICENSE EXEMPT CHURCH PROGRAMS. HE SAYS HE CAN SUPPORT THIS COMPROMISE BILL. THE BILL PASSED IN A HOUSE COMMITTEE AND NOW HEADS TO THE full HOUSE.

3/20/18 NBC 15 News at 9:00PM (WJTC) trt: 1:57

Brunch Bill

TODAY THE MOBILE CITY COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED AN ORDINANCE - ALLOWING PEOPLE TO PURCHASE ALCOHOL WITHIN CITY LIMITS AT 10 AM ON SUNDAYS...INSTEAD OF NOON. NBC 15'S NICOLE FIERRO WENT DOWNTOWN - TO SEE JUST HOW MUCH THIS WOULD IMPACT THE PORT CITY.

Education

1/25/18 NBC 15 News at 9PM (WJTC) trt: 1:00

Failing Schools

NINE SCHOOLS ARE FAILING IN MOBILE COUNTY ACCORDING TO THE ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION. FIVE MOBILE COUNTY HIGH SCHOOLS are ON THE LIST THIS YEAR, B C RAIN, BLOUNT, LEFLORE, VIGOR, and WILLIAMSON ALL MADE THE LIST -- THESE were the same SCHOOLS ON LAST YEAR'S FAILING LIST. FOUR *MIDDLE SCHOOLS MADE THE LIST BOOKER T. WASHINGTON AND SCARBOROUGH MIDDLE SCHOOLS MADE A REPEAT APPEARANCE. CHASTANG-FOUR-NI-AY MIDDLE SCHOOL AND THE MOBILE COUNTY TRAINING MIDDLE SCHOOL *NEW ON THE LIST THIS YEAR. WE asked MOBILE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT MARTHA PEEK ABOUT THE NEWS -- AND WHAT PLANS are IN PLACE to reverse the trend. **OUTCUE: "WE WORK ON THAT DILIGENTLY YEAR AFTER YEAR."** STATEWIDE: 75 of ALABAMA'S more than 13-hundred schools-- are on the failing list.

2/7/18 NBC 15 News at 9PM (WJTC) trt: 1:15

School Bus Inspection

AN NBC 15 news EXCLUSIVE UPDATE- FOLLOWING THE MASSIVE FIRE THAT RECENTLY BROKE OUT on a MOBILE COUNTY SCHOOL BUS IN GRAND BAY. WE ASKED the school system TO PROVE - HOW THEY ARE INSURING OUR CHILDREN ARE SAFE RIDING TO AND FROM SCHOOL. TODAY - NBC 15 NEWS GOT AN INSIDE LOOK AT THE SCHOOL BUS INSPECTION PROCESS. ONCE A MONTH EVERY BUS MUST PASS A 78-POINT INSPECTION -COMPLETED by a state authorized MECHANIC. EACH BUS DRIVER also has TO PERFORM a WALK THROUGH - TWICE A DAY. IF the bus doesn't MEET THE test, THE PROBLEM HAS TO BE FIXED ON THE SPOT - OR TAKEN IN BEFORE THE BUS CAN RUN IN ROTATION. **"The way I look at it, I tell my people if that bus is not safe to put your kids on, your nieces, nephews and cousins on, it's not safe for any kid to get into."** WHILE THE SCHOOL DISTRICT SAYS it doesn't KNOW THE CAUSE OF THE GRANDBAY FIRE YET... WE REACHED OUT TO THE Alabama Dept. of Insurance CONDUCTING THE INVESTIGATION. AT THIS TIME THEY SAY "Our investigators believe the fire started in the engine of the bus. The fire is thought to be associated with the fuel system. The incident is still under investigation but we believe it to be accidental."

3/23/18 NBC 15 News at 9PM (WJTC) trt: 1:10

Baldwin Co. Schools

IN OUR PROJECT EDUCATION SERIES... THE BALDWIN COUNTY SCHOOL district IS FIGHTING THE TIMING OF THE SPLIT WITH GULF SHORES... HOPING TO DELAY IT TO NEXT YEAR. NEARLY 5-THOUSAND DOLLARS WAS PAID LAST MONTH APPROVED AND SIGNED BY THE BOARD TO A FIRM LOOKING INTO THE MOVE. WE ASKED SUPERINTENDENT EDDIE TYLER ABOUT THAT EXPENSE. " every month the bill comes forward. i review the bills, the board see the bills and the public sees the bills. you know not every school system puts those bills out there or the public. if they want it they can request it." THE GULF SHORES CITY SCHOOL BOARD IS GETTING READY TO MOVE INTO ITS NEW CENTRAL OFFICE... BUT BECAUSE THE SPLIT ISN'T OFFICIAL YET... IT ISN'T GETTING ITS OWN FUNDING. TWO MILLION DOLLARS - WAS SET ASIDE BY THE CITY COUNCIL TO GET THE CITY SCHOOL SYSTEM ON ITS FEET... AND THE CITY EXPECTS A REIMBURSEMENT. SO FAR OUT OF THAT POT - THE CITY HAS SPENT \$40,000 IN LEGAL AND CONSULTING FEES RELATED THE FORMATION OF A CITY SCHOOL SYSTEM USING TAX DOLLARS. WE SHOULD KNOW by next week if the split will happen - that's when the state superintendent is expected to make HIS DECISION.

Crime

1/5/18 NBC 15 News at 9PM (WJTC) trt: 2:15

Serial Burglar

A BALDWIN COUNTY BURGLAR'S "GRINCH-LIKE" CRIME SPREE OVER THE HOLIDAYS IS OVER TONIGHT - THANKS TO ONE OF HIS OWN VICTIMS. INVESTIGATORS SAY LEWIS CLAYTON Junior OF BAY MINETTE - TARGETED HOMES - STEALING FIREARMS, ELECTRONICS-- even wrapped PRESENTS FROM UNDER CHRISTMAS TREES. NBC 15'S CORY PIPPIN IS LIVE TONIGHT IN BALDWIN COUNTY WHERE POLICE BELIEVE THERE ARE LIKELY MORE VICTIMS YET TO COME FORWARD.

1/9/18 NBC 15 News at 9PM (WJTC) trt: 2:30

Shield Command Center

A CRIME FIGHTING PROGRAM IN MOBILE, has the ATTENTION OF LAW enforcement from ACROSS THE state. MAYORS FROM several other cities are LOOKING AT *OUR TACTICS TO MAKE THEIR COMMUNITIES SAFER. NBC 15's NICOLE FIERRO SAT DOWN WITH CYBER INTELLIGENCE EXPERTS TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE PROGRAM PUTTING MOBILE ON THE MAP. SHE JOINS US LIVE FROM OUR STUDIO WITH MORE.. nicole, this program IS HELPING OUR local police solve many more CRIMES AT A FASTER RATE. THERE'S ONLY SO MANY OFFICERS ON THE GROUND....BUT PROJECT SHEILD IS A PROGRAM PUTTING EYES IN THE SKY ACROSS THE CITY ALLOWING POLICE TO TAKE CONTROL OF CRIME INSTANTLY - EVEN FROM THEIR OFFICE.

3/20/18 NBC 15 News at 9PM (WJTC) trt: 0:32

Park Break-ins

A CRIME ALERT THIS MORNING. WHILE YOU JOG- PLAY - PICNIC - WHATEVER YOU TO DO AT THE PARK -- THEIVES COULD BE RIPPING YOU OFF. PARENTS AND PARK-GOERS *ON ALERT AFTER RECENT CAR BREAK INS. M-P-D SAYS IT'S HAPPENING IN THE MIDDLE OF THE DAY. POLICE SAY LAST WEEK SOMEONE BROKE INTO 7 CARS AT MIMS PARK AROUND 2:30 IN THE AFTERNOON. THEY BELIEVE ONE CAR WAS UNLOCKED AND SAY OTHERS WERE SMASH AND GRABS. A WOMAN SAYS THAT SAME DAY SOMEONE BROKE INTO HER CAR AT "MEDAL OF HONOR PARK" AS WELL. A CLEAR REMINDER--WHY YOU SHOULDN'T LEAVE ANYTHING VISIBLE IN YOUR CAR AND ALWAYS LOCK CAR DOORS.

WJTC reporters and anchors volunteered for the following:

- Special Charity Work/Community Projects
- WJTC partnered with iHeart Radio to raise money for St. Jude's Hospital in February. An all day event, anchors and reporters cut into programming to ask viewers for donations.
- WJTC gives coverage and free advertising to Operation Reconnect to military veterans which helps them and their families vacation together.
- WJTC is training a service dog for the next two years to give to a disabled person – responsibilities include, vet visits, food, and training.

Appearances:

January: Meteorologist Chris Dunn hosted a spelling bee for W.J. Carroll Intermediate School.